

Chairman Cirino, Vice Chair Rulli, Ranking Member Ingram, and members of the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee,

Thank you for allowing me to testify in writing today. My name is Dan Piccolo. I am a resident of Wood County, a parent, an active member of my community, and an Associate Professor of Music at Bowling Green State University.

I am strongly opposed to Senate Bill 83 and its companion bill in the Ohio House. This bill represents a dangerous trend in our democracy, whereby legislators weaponize the legislative process to advance their own personal and religious dogmas for political gain, rather than protecting the individual freedoms of *all* Ohioans. This includes the faculty members who would, through the passage of SB 83, see limits placed on their rights of free speech and academic freedom, but also their students, who would have their right to an intellectually rigorous education infringed upon.

Let me be clear: I am strongly opposed to *any* legislation that limits free speech or academic freedom, and SB 83 does just that. Limiting the subject matter that can be taught at the highest levels of education in our state is a slippery slope. SB 83 claims to protect intellectual diversity, yet it forbids certain subjects and mandates others. It should be obvious that this will have the opposite effect to the bill's stated intent.

Finally, the draconian aspects of this bill that concern faculty members' relationships with China, in addition to being quite bizarre and utterly xenophobic, would cost the state university system greatly in both intellectual and economic viability.

I ask you to consider my testimony, as well as the many opposing testimonies you will hear today, and vote NO on this harmful bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dan Piccolo